

THOUGHTS FOR THANKSGIVING

UNCLE EZRA'S THANKSGIVING.

Yep, Thanksgiving Day is playin' out, er so it seems to me, For it don't make no comparison to what it use to be; Though the turkey and the mince pie is the same we've always known, An' I'm here an' Sary Ellen, but we're eatin' 'em alone.

It's the buildin' of the railroads that has made it that-a-way— Them he tuck out children from us an' he's spilt our holiday— Holdin' out their white shameeers about lan's that can't be beat (But whar cyclones digs the taters, an' whar chinch bugs mows the wheat).

Why, it use to be the youngsters didn't seem to want to go From the homestead of the ol' folks any more'n a mile or so; They 'ud take things 'twas given 'em, an' they'd settle thar an' stay, An' they'd fill the homestead table when it come Thanksgiving Day.

Law me! yes, them times is ended! Little Sary married fast, An' Jim Medders 'lowed he'd take her out to Idyho er bust,



BUT WE'RE EATING 'EM ALONE. An' he bust, an' I've been a sendin' money ever since, Though it's more fer little Sary thar I care than the expense.

An' then Charley went to Texas— Charley always was our pride, But he headed off some cattle, an' he hurt his spine an' died, An' now Sammy's in the city, an' that ain't so far away, But he's writ us that a baby's brought 'em their Thanksgiving Day.

So we narrowed down the table, bein' by ourselves, you see, An' the turkey 'll las' forever, jes' fer Sary an' fer me; An' the raisins in the mince pie, bought fer Sammy's special taste, Sence he didn't come to eat 'em, sence seem to be a waste.

Yep, the railroads tuck 'em from us, an' we're all alone at last, An' Thanksgiving's like I told yeh, jest a mem'ry of the past; But we're countin', me an' Sary, on a better place, an' then We will have a big Thanksgiving, an' the children home again.

HIS THANKSGIVING.

Tinkle-tinkle, tinkle-tinkle, tinkle-tinkle. The leading man engaged in an attempt to remove a black spot from his dress cravat by means of an application of white grease paint, paused and listened.

"It's a mandolin," he said. "That's a new wrinkle. We've had all kinds of fends in this company since we started out, everything from cigarettes to bicycles. Who's the musician, I wonder? Oh, I say, Jenks! Jenks! Who's the band wagon?"

There was a step in the narrow passageway that led to the dressing rooms, and Jenks, the property man, appeared in the doorway. "Sh!" he said, "not so loud. The old man'll hear you."

The leading man started. "The old man, did you say—not Merriam?"

"Yes, Merriam," in a whisper. The leading man sat on his trunk. "That beats me," he said. "The Ancient Mariner tinkling a mandolin. Now I'm prepared to see Father Time playing sentimental ditties on a few harp."

Jenks did not laugh, a fact which helped to sober the other man. "It's



I WANT YOU TO LEARN IT. no surprise to me," said the property man, gravely. "I says to Mrs. Jenks just before I left the hotel, says I, 'Mrs. Jenks, you know what night this is?' 'Thanksgiving,' she says. 'Why, right,' says I, 'and it'll be a hard night for Merriam.' 'Poor old man,' says Mrs. Jenks, a wisp of a tear. 'Poor old man, I

suppose he'll be playing of his mandolin again.' 'That he will,' says I.

"He hasn't missed it, as near as I can judge, for thirty years. As sure as Thanksgiving night comes, just so sure he gets out that old mandolin of his and tinkles away. And it's always the same tune. God! But it does make my mind go back. I'll never forget the first time he played it. You see, me and Merriam have been together, off and on, so long that I know his story most as well as he does himself. Not that he ever talks about it. To-night, after the show, that instrument 'll go back to the bottom of his trunk, and it won't come out again till this time next year."

The leading man was all ears. "Thirty years ago I was stage doorman at the old California theater. Now, the stage doorman ain't so important as some folks think. There's mighty little goes on that he don't know something about. He gets the flowers first, and he usually sees the cards. He's a good friend to the actor when the actor's a friend to him, and he can do a favor now and then that's worth the while."

"Merriam was just beginning to climb up the ladder in those days. He had come into the stock three years before as utility, but he was a handsome chap, with brains and ambition to back his good looks, and it wasn't long before he got to playing leads. Say, when Merriam went on as Romeo at the matinees you couldn't see three rows in front of you for the bonnets. Mrs. Jenks used to live in a regular garden those days, for Merriam wouldn't have none of the flowers the silly girls used to send him. When I'd offer to bring them home to him he'd laugh, and tell me he reckoned my wife cared more for flowers than he did."

"But I often noticed that he came into the theater with a big bunch of violets or roses that he'd bought himself to give to the little woman who played opposite parts to him. I asked him once why he didn't give her the flowers the girls sent him, instead of spending money that way. I took a kind of fatherly interest in Merriam in those days. Lord, bless you, to look at him now you'd think he was my grandfather. He looks that old."

"Well, I seen how things was going with him and Nellie Moore, and everybody else seen it, too. When she was on the stage he stood in the wings, and his eyes followed every move she made. I remember one of the women saying that it was worth while to have a man care for you like that, and certainly Nellie seemed to like it. She came to me one afternoon—that Thanksgiving I'm telling you about—and said that she was too tired to go home after the matinee. She asked me if I'd run across the way and order dinner for her. Then she whispered in my ear that she wanted it served for two, and asked if I couldn't fix a bunch light on the stage, so she and Merriam could have a cozy Thanksgiving dinner all alone."

"Of course I done it for her, and while they were eatin' I went over to



A CROWD AROUND THE STAGE DOOR.

my boardin' house. There was to be a change of bill that night, so I came back early to get my props in shape, as I had them to attend to as well as looking after the door. When I came back to the theater I heard Nellie Moore playin' mandolin. She was always fond of music and carried the instrument around with her.

"Now you try," she said, and Merriam answered that he didn't know a note.

"I'll teach you," she said. "There's an air I want you to learn and remember."

"All right," said Merriam, and he took the mandolin from her. She showed him where to place his fingers and kept humming the tune until he could play it with only one or two breaks. Then she went to her dressing room to get ready, and Merriam sat there thrumming until the half hour was called.

"That night there was a good deal of hand-shaking, and the word went around that there was to be a wedding at Christmas."

"The next night on my way to the theater I noticed a crowd around the stage door, and heard talk of a runaway. I hurried up, and as I did so Merriam came out, his face as white as a ghost."

"For God's sake, get a doctor, Jenks!" he cried.

"I rushed to the nearest drug store, and, luckily, found one there. When we got back to the stage door Merriam was waiting, and, without a word, he led us to a sofa in the wings on which Nellie Moore was lying. The doctor bent down over her for a minute, shook his head and said he was too late."

"An understudy played Juliet that night and Merriam as usual was the Romeo. The audience didn't know the real reason for the change, but in the tomb scene I don't see how they could help feeling it."

"Those of us who saw it from the wings will never forget it. The women were in hysterics and the stage hands and flymen were nearly as bad. I don't know how Merriam ever lived through

it, but this I do know. He was a different man from that night. He seemed to lose all his ambition and he withered up so, that when I met him at a rehearsal two years later, I hardly knew him. He was bent much as you see him now, and was playing character old man. Every year he dropped down further, until they wouldn't trust him with anything better than bits and servants. Yes, sir, and that old man has played Romeo with the best of them."

The story was finished, but the mandolin still tinkled. The leading man's face was drawn, and Jenks sat thinking. Perhaps the former was thinking of his own high tide of prosperity, and of what the future had in store for him.

But sympathy and curiosity are closely allied, and soon the two men were tiptoeing through the passageway. They paused before the old actor's room. A ray of light filtered through a crack in the thin pine door. Merriam was dressed and made up for a comedy servant. His green livery coat hung on a peg on the wall, and the red wig with which he covered his own white hair lay on the dressing table before him. There, too, was a faded photograph of a pure-faced girl in the dress of Juliet. The actor was bent over his mandolin and the leading man now caught the tune for the first time, broken, but recognizable.

"When other hearts and other lips Their tales of love shall tell, Then you'll remember, you'll remember—"

"Twang! There was the sound of a broken string. 'First act! All up for the first act!' The callboy came tumbling down the passage and the listeners hurried up to the stage. A few minutes later the callboy came up, too, and he found the stage manager fuming.

"Where's Merriam?" he cried. "I can't hold the curtain all night for that doddering old fool. Hurry him up, will you?"

The boy disappeared, and reappeared almost instantly. "Mr. Merriam's—"

The tears choked his voice and he got no further. The stage manager made a rush for the stairs. Ten minutes later he came up dressed for the comedy part, but the man whose name was down on the bills for the part lay in his dressing room clutching an old mandolin, with his eyes fixed on a faded photograph.

The Soldiers in Battle. It is not easy for the hearts in darkened rooms today, mourning sons and brothers to see God's face in the gloom, and if we give thanks for brave men and brave deeds, for the heroism that faced death undimmed in the trenches or on the seas, it should be in humility, that the world has not progressed far enough in God's way to be relieved of the curse of war, but we can be unreservedly thankful for the voices that have rung out in all the land for peace. Let us be thankful that never before have so many men and women been pleading for the right in defiance of the wrong. Never before have so many thoughtful ones faced the evils of the times, the great underlying causes of sin and misery, and sought to solve the knotty questions of our modern civilization.

Many Candidates for Governor. Avoiced candidates for republican nominations for governor of Illinois are Judge Elbridge Haney of Chicago, Congressman Reeves of Streator and Richard Yates of Jacksonville.

Killed Friend of Americans. The mayor of San Carlos, in the Philippines, who rode in the carriage with Gen. MacArthur and Col. Bell when the Americans entered the town, was murdered the next night.

Want the Time Extended. Secretary Gage is in receipt of a large number of requests from financial circles to extend the bond offering limit beyond Nov. 20. The secretary has not yet decided on his course.

Will Lead Anti-Bryan Movement. The New York Herald says Maryland democrats will lead in an anti-Bryan movement if any encouragement is offered by the leaders in New York and other eastern states.

Prominent Filipino a Prisoner. Buenavista, the brains of the Filipino insurrection, is a prisoner at Manila. He is the chief author of the Filipino constitution and most of the state documents.

Bubonic Plague in China. The bubonic plague is raging at New Chwang, Manchuria, China, hundreds of deaths occurring weekly, the mortality reaching forty to sixty on a single day.

Hardware Concern Burned Out. The warehouse of Fones Bros. Hardware company, at Little Rock, Ark., was destroyed by fire. The loss is \$175,000; insurance, \$125,000.

Lord Salisbury is Recovering. Lord Salisbury, British prime minister, whose illness has excited some apprehension, is now making satisfactory progress toward recovery.

Will Work for Roberts. Brigham H. Roberts will be aided in his fight to break into congress by a staff of lawyers now being engaged by the Mormon church.

Want Evans for Vice-President. Tennessee republicans will urge Pension Commissioner Evans' candidacy for the vice presidency.

Verdict Against Indiana Sheriff. The father of Marion Tyler, lynched by an Indiana mob, was awarded \$5 damages against the sheriff.

Dutch to Aid Boers. Members of the Dutch colonies near Sioux City, Iowa, have commenced the circulation of subscription papers for the Boers.

Russia Ready to Act. It is officially denied that Russia has seized Herat, but her troops are encamped near by, ready to act.

Talked Of for Vice-President. Roosevelt, Grant and Root are most discussed for candidates for vice-president.

NEW OFFICERS ARE CHOSEN.

Meeting of Illinois Grand Lodge L. O. E. at the State Capital. The grand lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows elected L. L. McKinley of Ottawa grand master. The state assembly of the Rebekah degree elected Mrs. Eva Withey of Springfield vice-president. There are now 878 lodges and 72,463 members, a gain of 1,658 members in the eighteen months preceding Oct. 1, 1899.

REBELS ARE SURRENDERING.

Entire Province of Zamboanga Is Given Up to Americans. Secretary of the Navy Long has received a cablegram from Admiral Watson, informing him that the entire province of Zamboanga, island of Mindanao, had surrendered unconditionally to Commander Very of the Castine. The surrender was made on the 18th inst.

COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE.

Charges of Overcrowding of Transport Tarter Will Be Probed. A commission has been appointed by the war department to investigate scandal of transport Tarter. The ship is said to have been overcrowded and the food unfit to eat, causing the death of a woman from starvation. The men rebelled against this treatment.

Philippine Official Gives Up. The president of the Philippine congress surrendered to Gen. MacArthur and admitted hopelessness of insurgent cause. Gen. Odis told the war department that the insurgent government can no longer claim to exist, its troops and officials are scattered and Aguinaldo in hiding.

To Work for Silver. The American Knights of Silver have filed articles of incorporation at Denver. Their object is to unite all persons who desire the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of any other nation.

\$300,000 Fire at Detroit. The building occupied by A. Krolick & Co., commission merchants, at 35 and 37 Woodbridge street, Detroit, and the wholesale dry goods establishment of Strong, Lee & Co., back of it, at 153 Jefferson avenue, were destroyed by fire. The loss is \$320,000.

Khalifa Killed in Battle. A British force under Gen. Wingate defeated the army of the Khalifa in the Sudan. The Khalifa was killed, and all the principal emirs were killed or captured, except Osman Digna, who escaped. The troops captured 9,000 derwishes in the battle.

Senator Mason Will Resign. Senator Mason says he was correctly reported as saying he would resign from the senate if the republican national convention should declare in favor of the administration's policy in the Philippines.

Philippine Appeal to Congress. The Philippine government will ask congress to take such action immediately as shall cause the cessation of hostilities in the Philippines and establish the Philippines as a free and independent people.

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A WEEK IN INDIANA.

RECORD OF HAPPENINGS FOR SEVEN DAYS.

St. Louisian Suspected of Murder—Arrested in Connection with a Mysterious Disappearance in Indiana—Authorities Are Mystified Over Disappearance.

Logansport—The police have arrested James Slagel of St. Louis on suspicion of having knowledge of the disappearance of Stephen Whitmore, father-in-law of President Seybold of the Logansport State bank. Slagel was with Whitmore on Saturday afternoon a few hours after being the last time he was seen. It is believed that Mr. Whitmore has been foully dealt with as he carried considerable money, and on account of his age could be easily handled. The police searched the house where Whitmore and Slagel were seen to enter on Saturday. The cellar and other places were carefully inspected in the hope of finding freshly dug ground. The mystery deepens as time progresses, and the authorities are mystified.

Receiver for an Indiana Bank.

Lebanon—The Central State bank, Lebanon, was placed in the hands of Receiver Charles W. McAdams of Williamsport. This is the last of the dwindling chain of banks, several of which failed some years ago. The Lebanon bank, it is said, never recovered from the difficulty which sent the others to the wall. Under the administration of A. C. Dally, auditor of state, the capital stock of the bank was found to be impaired, and he ordered an assessment of 50 per cent on the capital stock, which was \$25,000. Some of the stockholders paid, while others did not. The state then accepted a bond of \$50,000 from them. One of those who paid his assessment in full brought suit for the receiver. The assets are equal to the liabilities and the depositors will lose nothing, but the stockholders, it is thought, will lose heavily.

Lumber Plant Burned.

Sullivan—The large hardwood lumber plant of Jacob Mahley of this city burned to the ground. This plant was one of the most extensive in the country, with a daily capacity of 19,000 feet of sawed lumber. The finest machinery to be had was in use. Their output was not only in large demand in this country, but they were regular shippers to the foreign markets. The loss at this time cannot be estimated, but it will reach several thousand dollars. About fifty men were constantly employed, and as they are mostly poor workmen, dependent upon their daily toil for subsistence, the calamity is most serious.

Receivership Vacated.

Muncie—A new turn of affairs took place in the receivership of the Ontario silverware works. Judge Leffler voluntarily vacated the receivership and gave ten days' time in which Leonard McGlashan, one of the members of the firm, who resides in Canada, can have a chance to appear and state his side of the case.

Miners Censure Day Men Who Struck.

Brazil—The block coal miners held a meeting here and by a majority vote adopted a resolution censuring the day men for inaugurating a strike, and insisting that they return to work at once at the present price. Many of the day men are indignant and declare they will not be controlled by the resolution.

Killed by Falling Stone.

Brazil—John Williams was caught by a heavy fall of slate in the Peerless mine, belonging to the Coal Bluff Mining company, and instantly killed, his body being frightfully mangled.

State Briefs.

The directors of Winona assembly will plot thirty acres near the Auditorium and place the same on the market, the proceeds to be used in lifting the indebtedness and in making sundry improvements.

A deputy state factory inspector at Anderson has filed complaints against Edward Hutton, foreman of the Lapel bottle company, and J. T. Wilcox, manager of the Flint Bottle company, charging them with violating the child labor law.

Prof. Frank Buser, teaching at Linwood, was prostrated by appendicitis, and he was removed to Anderson to undergo an operation. He failed to rally, and his condition is alarming.

Louis Golden, who escaped from the jail and was recaptured at St. Louis, has been identified as a convict of the Joliet (Ill.) penitentiary who had violated his parole. He was transferred to the Illinois authorities.

The Muncie Times has editorially apologized to its patrons because the promised exhibition of the Leonids was a fizzle. Its office astronomer was out of the city, and it had to rely on the prediction of foreign talent.

Alexander Patton, assessor of Center township, Grant county, has been arrested on thirteen charges of extortion, his deputies accusing him of deducting 25 cents daily from their wages because he had appointed them, and appropriating the same to his own use. He gave bond in \$200 on each charge.

Timothy G. Ryan, a dissatisfied stockholder in the National Ice Saving company, has applied for a receivership and an accounting. The defendants are Wilson H. Soale and Henry Hahn. The company is capitalized at \$10,000 and the plaintiff holds \$3,000.

The deal for the purchase of the Anderson Herald by Stephen Metcalf and Charles L. Henry has been declared off, at least for the present. Negotiations may be resumed.

Eighteen people attended a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith of Richmond, their combined ages aggregating 1,319. The oldest was over 90.

T. C. Simpson of Montgomery county has suffered the revocation of his license as a teacher because he persisted in paying his addresses to a girl not 14 years old.

TOMAHAWK OF TECUMSEH.

Famous Indian Carried in Battle of the Thames in 1812.

Sarah L. Russell, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. E. H. Bettis, at 1413 East Sixteenth street, Kansas City, has the tomahawk carried by Tecumseh, when he was killed at the battle of the Thames in October, 1812. Col. William Russell, the founder of Russellville, Ky., who commanded the Kentucky contingent of that famous battle, was permitted by Gen. Harrison to remove the tomahawk from the dead body of Tecumseh and retain it, and it has been in the possession of the Russell family ever since. It was made in England, and presented to Tecumseh by the British commander at Detroit. Several hundred tomahawks were made in England and sent to the British commanders at Detroit for use among the Indians whom the British endeavored to induce to drive out the white settlers of Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. With few exceptions these tomahawks were made rather rudely of iron, with the handles bound with bands of the same metal, but the one owned by Tecumseh was made of highly polished steel, with silver bands encircling the handle. It can also be used as a pipe for smoking, the blunt end of the blade being made like the bowl of a pipe and the handle answering the purpose of a stem. The British commander had several of them made after the pattern, which he presented to Tecumseh, the prophet (a brother of Tecumseh), Ketopah and Topanabee, celebrated Indian warrior chiefs, who bore a conspicuous part in the battles of Tippecanoe, the siege of Fort Harrison, the battle of the Raisin, and other noted battles which took place in Indiana and Michigan and along Lake Michigan while the British held possession of Detroit and were using the Indians as their allies in the endeavor to hold the west and northwest country. The Tecumseh tomahawk is the only one known to have been preserved. Mrs. Russell has had many offers to part with it, but the relic will probably remain with her descendants for many years to come. Mrs. Robert Russell, soon after it came into the possession of her husband, showed it to Blue Jacket, a well-known Shawnee chief, who was then over 80 years old. The old chief went into ecstasies when told that the relic was taken from the dead body of Tecumseh. He kissed it and pressed it to his bosom and told Mrs. Russell he was too young to follow his grand chief, Tecumseh, in the warpath, but he well remembered how proud Tecumseh was with that tomahawk belted about his waist.—Kansas City Star.

PROVISIONS AGAINST FIRE.

The Restrictions to Be Enforced at the Paris Exposition.

Intending exhibitors and visitors from the United States to the Paris exposition in 1900 will be interested in knowing what arrangements and regulations will be made by the French authorities against fire. The Paris exposition administration has taken all the measures possible to afford security to exhibitors and visitors against fire at the exposition. The regulations are rather voluminous, containing thirty-six articles distributed in six chapters. These regulations take up the openings and exits and the stairways and doors of all palaces and buildings. They regulate the width of doors and steps. All exterior doors will open in and out. Doors opening inward must remain open constantly. Emergency doors will bear an inscription stating their purpose, and in all hallways and corridors painted arrows will indicate the direction of the exit. An emergency lighting system for night use will consist of lamps of one-candle power, bearing the distinctive red color. All wood of the framework in the buildings will be covered with an insulating coat of non-inflammable material. All stairways will be of fireproof material. The floors of all buildings, palaces, theater halls, cafes, concert rooms, exhibition places and all railings and balustrades will also be of fireproof material and before accepted will be thoroughly tested at the expense of the contractors. All decorative canvas, awnings and canvas coverings must be fireproof. All electric installation of cables, lamps, wires and conductors in the interior of the buildings must be put up under the supervision of the director of exploitation. All motive power will be admitted only under rigid conditions. The use of celluloid in lamps, globes, balloons and other fancy apparatus for lighting decoration will be forbidden. The regulations for heating and lighting provide that it can only be done by gas and electricity. The use of hydrocarbons, oils and petroleum, acetylene gas and other gases than coal gas is positively forbidden, either for heating, lighting or motive power. The construction of meeting halls, cafes, concert halls and theaters must be of fireproof material, and the theater curtains must be of iron or asbestos cloth. The lighting of such places will be exclusively by electricity. A fire service as nearly perfect as possible will be established, with a water piping and pressure sufficient for firemen's service. The administration assumes the right to enforce any measures that may be deemed necessary to assure safety.—Iron Age.

Confession on the Battlefield.

At Shiloh, during a pause in the fire of Hazen's brigade, the enemy, being sharp and incessant, a young lieutenant, as witty and as brave as the brigade contained, was standing behind a tree. A fat and fussy field officer, after passing by, roared out: "Lieutenant, what are you doing behind that tree?—behind that tree, sir?" The offender left his cover, walked coolly up to his irascible superior, and respectfully saluting, replied: "Sir, I have the honor to report that I was engaged in wishing that it grew in my father's pasture."

Consumption of Champagne.

New York consumption of champagne during the past year was the greatest ever known.

One in a Thousand.

Of 1,000 persons only one reaches the age of 100 years.

Society Directory.

MASONIC.

PLYMOUTH KILWINNING LODGE, No. 149, F. and A. M.; meets first and third Friday evenings of each month. Wm. H. Conger, W. M. John Corbaley, Sec.

PLYMOUTH CHAPTER, No. 49 R. A. M.; meets second Friday evening of each month. J. C. Jilson, H. P. H. B. Reeve, Sec.

PLYMOUTH COMMAND'RY, No. 26, K. T.; meets fourth Friday of each month. John C. Gordon, E. C. L. Tanner, Rec.

PLYMOUTH CHAPTER, No. 26, O. E. S.; meets first and third Tuesdays of each month. Mrs. Bertha McDonald, W. M. Mrs. Lou Stansbury, Sec.

ODD FELLOWS.

AMERICUS LODGE, No. 911 meets every Thursday evening at their lodge rooms on Michigan street. C. F. Scheerer, N. G. Chas. Bushman, Sec.

SILVER STAR LODGE, Daughters of Rebekah; meets every Friday evening at I. O. O. F. hall. Mrs. J. E. Ellis, N. G. Miss Emma Zumbaugh, V. G. Miss N. Berkhold, Sec.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

HYPERION LODGE, No. 1171 meets every Monday night in Castle Hall. Wm. F. Young, C. C. Cal Switzer, K. of R. and S.

HYPERION TEMPLE, Rathbone Sisters; meets first and third Fridays of each month. Mrs. Chas. McLaughlin, E. C.

FORESTERS.

PLYMOUTH COURT, No. 14991 meets the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month in K. of P. hall. C. M. Slayter, C. R. Ed Reynolds, Sec.

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